

ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEW #446-2

with

Catalino Pedro Agliam (CA)

May 6, 1993

Lana`i City, Lana`i

BY: Jonylle Sato (JS)

JS: This is an interview with Mr. Pedro Agliam at the ILWU [*International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union*] office in Lana`i City. Today is May 6, 1993. The interviewer is Jonylle Sato.

Okay, Mr. Agliam, we just—we ended last time right before getting to World War II. So I thought we could start with December 7, 1941, the day, you know, that Pearl Harbor was bombed. And can you tell me when you first heard that war had started?

CA: I was at the pool hall playing billiard with my friends when we heard, this was early morning, we heard on the radio that Pearl Harbor was bombed and we were at war. So we don't know what to do. Here we don't have any military installation or whatever. We just sit tight. Then never take long, had the army personnel, I don't know where they came from, maybe Honolulu, maybe Schofield Barracks or some place. Came and station over here. There were lot of 'em, and they built below the airport leading toward the [*Kaunapali*] Harbor on the left side, they built many houses there. That's where they were stationed, in the main camp there.

JS: That was after the war had already . . .

CA: Already started, yeah.

JS: So on December 7, though, do you remember what kinds of things changed, you know with the new regulations coming in? What did the people on Lana`i feel about the wartime regulations, the restrictions, and the blackouts, and things like that?

CA: Oh yeah, then they start ordering the plantation housing people to build outside of the window, like a box, big box, but the underneath open. That's where the ventilation, you know. You can open the window and the light wouldn't go out, eh. That's what they did to all of the houses. Because the houses were owned by the [*Hawaiian Pineapple*] Company at the time.

JS: So did the company order the people to build the boxes for their own house?

CA: No, they sent there the carpenters that worked for the company, they did all the work. They get paid from the company. And then we not supposed to open the door and leave 'em wide open long time, you know, when you get the light, 'cause going shine outside, eh. They get people, volunteer, like police for each block. Maybe certain guys, couple guys take care certain area. You know, they help the police force. And there were many of them that volunteered doing that kind of service. Some of them were stationed outside. They make some kind of post. Where high place and they can look down toward the ocean. And they go in shift. You know, they go in pairs. Even in the night they was doing that. So pretty hard for anybody walk around during the night because you bound to run into somebody who's on duty. And they get gun. Just like army guys, they carry real gun, eh. "Halt!" And they yell at you, "Stop." They like see who you, eh.

JS: Do you remember any kind of incidents that happened, you know, between these. . . .

CA: Oh, the civilians and the people in charge? Not that I know of. No, never did. I don't remember. Because later on the people here, like myself, we joined what they call volunteer army [*the Lana`i Volunteers*]. We had to go through the process of physical exam and they had doctor, eh, the army doctor, eh. And then teach us how to use the rifle. Teach us drill at the ballpark. And then they take us out to *da kine* target range. Make sure that you know what you doing. You know, they give you the gun, you gotta know what you doing with the gun. They teach us all *da kine* stuff.

JS: So did you join this as soon as the war started?

CA: Oh, after it started and then.

JS: And what kinds of other people were in this military group?

CA: Oh, mostly was Filipinos. Had Hawaiians. Had mix, mix racial group. I was working at the pier later, when I joined with those guys.

JS: So this was more toward the middle of the war then?

CA: Like, yeah.

JS: Like 1943 or so, about?

CA: Yeah, '42, '43. Yeah. Forty-three I moved from the pier. [*Catalino Agliam continued to work down at the pier but changed his residence to his wife's home.*] I move up here already. I gotta stay with my, live with my wife [*Leonara Pagampao*]. And my wife no like leave the family. Rather stay with the father because she had younger ones [*siblings*], way below her. Because at the time I met her, she was acting like the mother for the younger ones

[*because her parents had separated*]. That's the reason why they so close to her. My sister-in-law, brother-in-law, close to my wife because through those years, when they were young, my wife used to act as their mother until they grow up and graduate from school. Then they get married and all that, still. . . .

JS: So going back to a little bit more towards the beginning of the war then, if you can recall back to that day December 7, you were at the pool hall with your friends. But do you remember what you did as soon as you heard that war had started?

CA: I was still there playing pool. I didn't think anybody here can do anything about it. 'Cause like I said, there's no military installation or whatever here. If they came here bomb, they not going gain nothing unless they bomb the gasoline tanks and then we would be lost of energy.

JS: So did most of the people on Lana`i feel like that, that there wasn't really a threat?

CA: Yeah, 'cause there's nothing to gain. I mean if they came here, the biggest loss I would think, is if they bomb the gasoline tank, crude oil tank. Because that's---crude oil, we used to use 'em for the crane way back, eh. Those days they had *da kine* steam crane, steam crane just like a train, you know, steam *da kine*, locomotive something like that. Steam, the crane you run by steam. And not only that, they used crude oil for, you know what that *furo*? Bathhouse, we used to get, the whole Lana`i City used to get, here and there used to get *furo*. Community bathhouse. One big building, one-half is for women, one-half is for men. That's what we used to have, you know. My children, they no believe was like that before. Yeah. Even today when I used to talk story with them, tell them *da kine* story, they no believe. Today is a lot different, I tell them now. If they only had experienced that (chuckles) they would feel different.

JS: So at that time then, at the beginning of the war, most people didn't really feel. . . .

CA: Yeah, threatened or not. . . .

JS: So when did things start to change? Or did things start to change with the war going on? For the community, the way people felt about the war, did that change especially after the military government took over?

CA: When the military people came in, it wasn't so much that it's change. The only thing is that the population came [*increased*] and they had uniforms. So if there was some kind of threat, at least we had somebody, you know, that can fight back eh. Other than that, hardly. . . .

JS: With the increase of the population, all the military people coming over, do you know how that might have affected the businesses here? Were you

aware of those kinds of things or . . .

CA: No.

JS: 'Cause you were still in the field . . .

CA: Yeah, I was working—in '42, yeah, '42, early '42 I went down pier already. Because one year, at first when I came, '40, and then one year later war break out, and then never take long after war break out I was sent down to the pier work. Because there were people that was leaving Lana`i and going back to wherever they came from. And some come from Big Island that wanted to go back to where the family is.

JS: Were there a lot of people leaving Lana`i for O`ahu and some of the civilian defense jobs there?

CA: Yeah, yeah, some of them that were working here, some of them were truck drivers. Later I find out that, hey, how come certain trucks—because they were assigned steady to one single truck eh, every day, every day [*they take*] the same truck. I take notice certain trucks not going down to the pier. Then I find out from some guys that some of the drivers, “Oh, he not around here, he left.”

Then after I found out had couple of vacancies, I went to see the guy in charge of the truck department, told 'em, “I want to go work for you.”

And then he said, “Sure, you working for the pier, you getting good pay, eh?”

“Yeah, but kind of risky.”

And then he ask me, “Well, what do you mean risky?”

“You no see sometime [how] windy, rough the ocean and we gotta go out there with the small tug and climb up on the barge and then bring the barge in? Eh, that's a risky stuff.” And you know, they no more safety *da kine*. One false move you make, you can die out there—which happened. Somebody died. Because those days no more safety rule. So I told 'em, “I prefer I drive truck.” See, I'm on the land now, safe.

So the guy accepted me. In fact, I was already married. 'Cause '43 I was still working down there [*at the pier*], I was married in '43 [*June 27, 1943*]. And in '45, I couldn't stand [*working at the pier*] already. Like I said, no more safety rules eh, got too risky. So I left.

JS: How did you get to go down to the pier? I mean, you were working in the fields at first, right, and then why did you go down to the pier?

CA: Because they needed. The company needed. Some of the workers had, eventually they had left. And those that had left without the company

wanting them to, you know, even though they never allow, yeah if possible they no like. . . . You know, all of a sudden the labor in numbers, big drop, they [*the company*] no like, like that. So those that went without the permission of the company, automatically A-1 [*1-A draft status*], you drafted (chuckles). And they end up in *da kine* battle zone, yeah. So when I realize was something like that, might as well I stay work for the company if that's the case. Unless they put me A-1 [*1-A*] and then I get drafted, then I would go. Other than that I not going. I not going volunteer.

JS: So it was the company that kind of controlled who was gonna go and when?

CA: Exactly, yeah. That's what I was trying to tell you at my house. They had the control as far as classification of the system, yeah. They had lots to say.

JS: What about enforcing the new regulations that were created under the martial law? Was the company doing those kinds of thing, you know, regulating the blackouts and the rationing?

CA: No, the military.

JS: So as far as the company went, it was mostly controlling the workers, whether they would be drafted or not?

CA: Yeah.

JS: And how else did, you know, the plantation work, how else was that affected by the war? I know you said people were leaving and things like that, but were you kind of frozen into your job?

CA: I was actually. That's the reason why I say. . . . I was in good health, I don't know why they put me in C classification. C, you know you not going be drafted if you in C. You gotta be in A-1 to get drafted.

JS: So those classifications went by health or by job?

CA: I have no idea. Because like I said, I was in good shape, yeah. [*Classification depended mainly upon occupational status, with some consideration given to the number of one's financial dependents.*] But they had the sole control. My feeling was that the company, knowing that you as an individual a good worker, the company can make profit, rather than have one worker that don't give a damn for the company making profit. That kind they let 'em go and that guy going be A-1 classification, he going get drafted. That's how it was. Because lot of the guys that left here, they ended up going [*drafted*]. Some came back, some never come back. [*In 1943, jobs in the pineapple industry were listed as critical occupations and workers received draft deferments. CA is probably referring to those workers who left their jobs, thus losing their deferments.*]

JS: What about the people who went over to work in the civilian defense?

CA: Yeah, some people work in Honolulu. They left here, but they found job in Honolulu, defense job. And then later on they came back here. After everything slow down, came back to normal.

JS: Did you ever want, think about going over?

CA: Not, because I was already married. And by the time---I was already married, I had three children, and they classified me A-1. I went to the office, selective service office, I show 'em my letter sent to me. "How come send me A-1 now? Gee, that's kind of late, eh?"

"No, up to you." The lady tell, "Up to you, if you want to volunteer you can volunteer."

JS: That was after the war?

CA: No, it was still *da kine* yet. And then because it was still in '40-something. Then tell me volunteer, crazy volunteer, I get three kids. Not supposed to leave the family home. I not going gain nothing.

JS: So you stayed with Hawaiian Pineapple Company?

CA: Yeah, I stayed.

JS: And with all those people leaving, did your work load increase?

CA: Yes, it did. Came less and less workers and we couldn't handle whatever supposed to be done. Even the harvesting. Had enough people to harvest, but to ship 'em out, there wasn't enough people to load the fruit that was picked for the day. Because was in crate, the thing. . . . One crate weigh somewhere seventy and over eighty pounds per crate. And this on the ground, eh. Three high, three high. And fill 'em up with fruit. Somewhere around seventy-five pound, go up to almost ninety pound each. And have to throw 'em on a flat deck, [*flatbed*] truck, and there were less and less workers and end up some of us truck drivers had to go give a hand, go work overtime and load the fruit. Put 'em on the truck and load the truck with the fruit and then the driver can drive 'em down to the pier and load 'em on the barge. And we work overtime. Sometimes we work eight hours one job, then we go to loading fruit couple hours. Was hard work. Then in '46, I don't know if was March or April, that's when had this people came by the hundreds from the Philippines. [*In January 1946 the first of several thousand postwar Filipino laborers began arriving in Hawai'i.*]

JS: Then when you had to work overtime during the war years, did you get paid more, too?

CA: Yeah, extra pay. But those days was working overtime, but we didn't get overtime rate because we didn't have any contract at that time. They just

pay you whatever extra hours, they pay you what that rate was. Something like two dollars an hour extra, if you make (laughs) bonus on the loads that you load, I mean the food that you load. That's kind of rare.

JS: So how did you and your other workers, how did you folks feel about having to do all this work?

CA: Well, we had to have patience because we wasn't forced to do it. If we were feeling like doing it we just tell, "Yeah, okay we going." But we got to talk among ourselves like three, three persons, one crew. One guy, stay on the flat deck truck, that's the stacker. And the two [*others*] load on the truck. Me small so I rather stay on the flat deck, I stack 'em.

JS: And once the military government, they said that—they made pineapple a critical industry, like it became a really important industry during the war. Did you folks feel any effects from that? Were you kept on your jobs even tighter or was it just the same?

CA: Well, it look like the same. Only difference was like I mentioned the numbers, as far as labor, were less because lot of the people left. Those that, especially those that had family on O`ahu, Maui, Big Island, then they prefer to go back to their family, so that's what happened.

JS: How else did the conditions of the wartime affect your daily life in terms of getting food and supplies?

CA: Food wasn't that bad situation, wasn't that bad for food. Because the company those days, they was running boardinghouse because there were many single men at that time. The population as far as single men was plenty. And because the company was running boardinghouse, naturally they gotta have shipment of all the different kind of meat supply and whatnot. They had actually here a slaughterhouse. You know where the Ko`ele, The Lodge [*at Ko`ele*], way down on that side close to the place where get the tennis court. Someplace in that area used to have one slaughterhouse. Because those days the whole island was fenced. Had fence around where keep the cattle out of the pineapple field. Put fence right around the pineapple field and wherever get the fence, that's the boundary. The beef, the cattle cannot go into the pineapple field. And right around the island used to get plenty cattle.

They even had piggery. The company own their own piggery. And they run 'em with a steam boiler, it's like the kind of boiler the steam crane used to have. Same kind. 'Cause when I was working down the pier, they had assign me go assisting with one guy that know how to run the boiler. And then eventually I had learn to be one fireman, you know, where you light up the boiler and get plenty steam. Because for wash down the piggery you need pressure, water pressure I mean, and they connect the steam with *da kine*. When they open the hose, strong the pressure, eh, easy to wash down the piggery. And at the same time, the steam, they use 'em for cook the food for

the hogs.

JS: So living in the plantation boardinghouses, I think you folks got most of your food from plantation companies?

CA: Yeah. That is when I was single before I got married [*in June 1943*]. We didn't worry because we know the company going get lot of *da kine* [*food*].

JS: So you folks didn't have any rationing kind of system?

CA: The only rationing for us civilians was the alcohol. If you a beer drinker, I think once a month you get one or two case. I wasn't a beer drinker, I used to drink hard liquor because that's what my close friends, you know, they prefer hard liquor. So we take turns, say maybe if three or four guys, we use yours [*liquor ration*] first, when finish, the next guy one. Say four guys, we finish up within one week, talk story over one [*guy's liquor ration*]. The next week we use the other one. And so on down the line. By the time we finish the fourth one, we going into the next month and we get card, they issue [*ration*] card, you know, and they put the signature and the date [*on the card when you get your month's allotment*]. So you gotta show your card, otherwise you cannot buy.

And well, being that, like I mentioned, I talk to my [*future*] wife, so I had to be good friend with the father, my future father-in-law. And he was a hard liquor drinker like myself. So we came more better friends (chuckles). It's only natural, eh. You gotta make good friends because going be my future father-in-law. So when I catch maybe big kind [*of*] fish or lobster or whatever, I go bring 'em there. At the same time, I had to go because those days single men, you gotta find your own laundry. Do your laundry. I had Japanese girls, no more father, get mother, get brother, they took, they were willing to do my laundry, eh. Once a week deliver the dirty clothes, they get 'em all bundle up eh, the clean clothes. And you pay once a month.

JS: How much did you have to pay?

CA: Something like four dollars.

JS: For the month. You mentioned that you would bring fish and things to your father-in-law. Was that during the wartime?

CA: Yeah.

JS: You could still fish?

CA: Yeah. We had to go to Maui, take picture. And they take your picture and you get one kind of, what do you call that, just like one badge [*an identification badge*].

JS: Badge?

CA: Yeah. And get your picture.

JS: And that was your identification?

CA: Yeah, you had to show that. And when they investigate you, you gotta show that, because otherwise you not supposed to go. . . . They no allow anybody [*to just travel around*].

JS: So who were the people that were able to fish and do those things?

CA: Oh, mostly the guys that Hawaiian like that or part-Hawaiian. But for us Filipinos, we didn't. . . . Some of us, we were afraid to, you know, get involved with the government, eh. So that no more harassment from government officials or whatever, when we heard about you gotta get one badge, we went to Maui. We went on the boat, free, the company own the boat. Go over and go to Wailuku courthouse. After we got what we wanted, we take the boat again, come home. 'Cause the boat sometime stay all day. Leave [Maui] about three [*P.M.*] or two-thirty [*P.M.*], something like that. And then get here five o'clock in the afternoon down at the pier. Take three hours to one day. Slow, the sampan slow eh. Not like now. The boat now they get, the *Expedition*, fast. Forty minutes. You can see 'em, the thing moving fast. No more time for seasick.

JS: So did the Japanese people, too, were they allowed to go to Maui for these badges?

CA: No, not that I know of. Some already had commercial, they already had commercial [fishing] license so they were still allowed to go.

JS: To go fishing?

CA: Yeah, they had boat.

JS: Even during the war?

CA: Yeah, they had already commercial license. So they was just doing it and they bring to the market and so the company was profiting. Well, I think was profit because they buy 'em cheap from the fisherman and they bring 'em to the boardinghouse. You see, they buy 'em from the fisherman cheap and they use 'em to feed their employees at the boardinghouse.

JS: So were these Japanese fisherman, they were Japanese Americans? Or were some of them . . .

CA: I guess so. Yeah, yeah, I think they were. [*Fishing regulations imposed at the start of the war gradually relaxed to allow for limited commercial and shore fishing. Towards the latter part of the war in 1945, most of the fishing restrictions were lifted and both U.S. citizens and aliens could apply for*

fishing passes.]

JS: So actually things on Lana`i weren't as strict?

CA: No, not that I know of. Wasn't that strict where—not like some other place like Honolulu or Maui. I don't think so.

JS: What about other supplies for the whole community? You know, because things were brought in by the barges, how was—did the war affect the food supply coming in from the other islands?

CA: Oh, this boat that was owned, one big sampan, sixty feet I think, fifty, sixty feet, owned by the company. That's the one—you know, take about two dozen people easy, back and forth. That bring in supplies from Maui. Take from Haleakala Dairy, milk in the bottle those days, in the bottle eh. And they take spuds from Kula, Kula farm. Plenty different type of foodstuff that brought over from Maui and lot of the stuff come from Honolulu on the barge.

JS: So it just continued to come in regular?

CA: Yeah, yeah. It did continue like that back and forth. Couple times, while I was working down the pier, I was assigned to work as a deckhand on the boat. Because the worker that was supposed to do the job, he on vacation, paid vacation, so somebody gotta take over. They figure I was the kind [*of*] person that no get seasick. So they send me go, send me on a boat. They figure I could handle the job at the pier. We used to handle fertilizer down at the pier, get big warehouse. Ship, big ship, almost the full length of the pier down there. Have you seen the pier down Kaumalapau?

JS: Not in person, no.

CA: Oh, well maybe we better go look. Anyway, the full length of the pier, the ship come in right at the entrance and drop anchor. And the thing come slow inside like that. And then one of the small tugs go outside and push 'em right against the pier. And when the boat want to go back out, they tie up both ends, alongside the pier. Shee, we work about fifteen, sixteen hours for empty the ship. Plenty hundreds of workers. And we stay there till empty the ship. Used to come in sacks, 100-pound sacks. And people work in the ship and they sling the sack. They stack 'em up on the rope and then they [*tie*] both end like that, they stick the other end inside and lock it. Put 'em on the hook and the crane pick 'em up, put 'em on the ground, from the ship out to the ground. And then another crane pick 'em up, put 'em on the platform and we go over there and get the pushcart with the four wheels, the long handle that you can turn. If you and I partner, you push from the back and I hold the handle and I pull and I push 'em, bring 'em to inside the warehouse and get plenty people in there. And high, they stack 'em high. Those days I could pick up a 100-pound [*sack*] over my head, a 100-pound [*sack*] and look how small [*I am*].

JS: And you just threw it over?

CA: Yeah, I just from the ground I pick 'em up like that. Over my head stretch my arm. And supervisors knew I could do that. That's why I say they look me small, but they see me work on the boat, eh. They knew I could do the job that was required. But the pay wasn't there.

JS: So was this also with the [*Hawaiian Pineapple*] Company?

CA: Yeah, same company.

JS: With the plantation?

CA: Yeah. And same pay. Different job, same pay. No increase in pay, nothing. Even when they assign me the piggery. I supposed to get fireman pay [which was greater than CA's normal pay] because same as working boiler over there by the piggery, and same as working on the crane because steam both, eh. Because get gauge how much the pressure, yeah, steam pressure. You gotta keep 'em within the certain *da kine*. But when I ask for, "How come the other guy, he get more pay than me? How come my pay no can go like the guy's? They firemen. Me fireman, too. I consider myself fireman because you guys assign me go up there, down here, tell me go on the crane." They no pay attention because we no was organized [in unions] yet, so they can do what they like. And you don't want to get into argument those days, because whether you right or wrong they going tell you pack your suitcase, out you go. That's how it was those days.

JS: So what was the pay difference between you and these other men?

CA: Oh, something like maybe ten cents an hour, or fifteen cents an hour difference. I got stuck fifty cents an hour and that was it. And plus these other guys, they no get assign go get the barge, and that's the dangerous part. That's the worse one I didn't care to do, but I was forced to go.

JS: And that was at that same pay rate?

CA: Yeah, same pay rate, never change. See, they was taking advantage of me so I didn't care to stay anymore. You know, I kind of stretching my luck, eh. I figure one of these days if I stick around any longer I might get hurt.

JS: Oh at the . . .

CA: At the pier, yeah. So I seen guys get hurt.

JS: So did most of the people who worked at the pier, did they feel the same way as you that it was too dangerous?

CA: They feel dangerous, but they didn't want to make a move, you know, they get out from there and they end up might be out in the field, which they try

to avoid. They feel the job down there [*at the pier*] is much better than staying up here where they going end up in the field. But when I moved out from there I went direct into driving truck. That was in '45, yeah. And in '46, when the hundreds of workers from Philippines came over here, they needed truck drivers. When they came from Philippines, I was already driving one year, truck. And knowing that I can speak, I can communicate [*with the immigrant Filipino workers*], then they had send me go teach with some other guys, yeah. We had one Japanese guy, one Hawaiian guy, Filipino guy, and myself. We go teach people how to operate the bigger trucks that haul freight, haul fruit. So from '45 I drove truck, '46 I start teaching, all the way until I retired. So that's thirty-five [*thirty-six*] years of driving and thirty-six [*thirty-five*] years of teaching, you know how you call it, instructor, driving instructor. That's a lot.

And later, yeah, as the years go later, the company smart. I knew what was going on, yeah. They assign people like from the bottom of the barrel, they push 'em to me because I can communicate [*in Ilocano*]. Those that they figure can understand English, they send 'em to my friends, Japanese guy, Hawaiian guy, Filipino guy, who cannot speak my language. They send 'em. English-speaking people they send to my friends. Those that kind of hard to communicate in English, that's the one they push 'em to me.

JS: So you were instructing them in Ilocano?

CA: Yeah. I demonstrate and I explain, you know, why and why I do this and why I do that. I make 'em real simple just like I drawing one picture for them. And do it over and over. Shee, and that's a lot. You gotta kind of, how you say, brainwash the guy within two weeks. He gotta be able to demonstrate what I had teach 'em within two weeks. He no can cut the mustard, he out. But those days, the early days, it's not like now. Now, oh boy, you gotta be able to read and understand a lot more.

JS: Okay, let me turn over the tape here.

JS: Okay, I wanted to go back a little bit to the war years again, and talk a little bit more about how things might have changed or what differences you saw because of the war. I was wondering, you know, you said the supplies and the food was pretty much the same as before, coming in on the barges, right. Not too much . . .

CA: Shortage.

JS: . . . shortages.

CA: Yeah.

JS: What about communication, like with the other islands? Do you know if that was affected in any way?

CA: Oh, shee maybe, maybe. Because for, how you say? I didn't call long-distance or whatever, but could be everything was taped, tape-recorded. [*Until after the war, Lana`i had its own telephone system, and interisland communication was conducted via letter and telegraph. Whether or not phone conversations were recorded could not be confirmed.*] I guess they tap all the phones because had some people living here that were sent to, how you call *da kine*, concentration camps.

JS: Internment camps.

CA: Yeah, internment camp up the Mainland. Had, had . . .

JS: Were there a lot of people?

CA: Not very much, but had one individual that came back and he went to work here as a truck driver until he retired. We were good friends. By the time he came back and then we just beginning to organize [*in labor unions*]. And he knew I was all-out for labor, prolabor union. So I didn't care about what anybody think. I was just doing what I think was best for the majority. I didn't care if my friends or my, say brother-in-law, or father-in-law, they didn't like the idea of what I was doing, but I just going do it because like I say, I was just doing it for the better, what's better for the majority.

JS: So your friend that was sent to the internment camp, do you know why they chose?

CA: I don't know. I didn't question him.

(Telephone rings. Taping stops, then resumes.)

JS: All right. We were talking about your friend who had been interned.

CA: Yeah.

JS: Did you know of other people who went?

CA: No. He was only one person. [A few others from Lana`i had also been interned on the Mainland.]

JS: He was a plantation worker also?

CA: Yeah, he was working here before he went [*to the internment camp*]. But I had no idea how come he went.

JS: So for you on the plantation, you didn't really notice any kind of trouble communicating with the other islands because you weren't, you weren't really doing that?

CA: Yeah.

JS: What about news coming in about the war? Did you folks get a lot of news?

CA: Well, we had radio so. . . . Especially when we go to the pool hall, the radio full blast. So even though we playing pool, we can hear whatever the news. And then when we go to the store, we meet friends like that. And then they mention, you heard about this, you heard about that. Oh. I don't have any radio until finally long time. Just before I got married, I finally could afford small radio for my room. Because I was living up the, you know up the—you know the service station [*Lana`i City Service & Dollar Rent A Car, on Lana`i Avenue*]. That side of the service station, they used to call that Citizen Quarters, one big square had all gray houses. All the single boys live there and they had about three, four bathrooms. Get all shower, eh. All men so you just walk in and then you undress, take a shower over there. You only go walking---you walk out from your house with a towel wrap around you. Just go with one small can get the soap inside. Go inside there take a shower and come back then dress up. That was it. But later on, after I got married, then I don't go over there. Because I was already married, so I stay with my wife's family. Then we get to go to the *furo*, the bathhouse, community bathhouse.

JS: This was still plantation housing?

CA: Mhm. Yeah.

JS: So you know, when you folks would be at the pool hall hearing the news about the war and things . . .

CA: Yeah.

JS: What did you and your friends—did you folks think about the war or how did you think things were going?

CA: Shee. It's like you figure, as long as they [*the enemy*] not going to affect Lana`i. You know, I not think they going do anything about it. Lana`i is so small. Like I said, there's nothing to gain, you know, they going take the island, that's about it.

JS: But were there any fears that it might happen?

CA: Shee, I don't know about the other people, but I wasn't too concerned about it.

JS: What about other things like air raid shelters and gas masks?

- CA: Yeah, we had. Everybody used to carry [gas masks] when you go to the store, you gotta make sure you leave the house, you get the thing sling on you. Otherwise they going question you, the police going question you. Wherever you go you carry it with you.
- JS: What about on the job though?
- CA: We gotta carry in the bag. Different kind [of] bag.
- JS: So you did take it with you even when you were working?
- CA: You supposed to, yeah, you supposed to carry 'em with you at all times.
- JS: Even the people who were working the fields, did they have it with them?
- CA: I guess so. Everybody. Because no matter where you go, you supposed to be carrying that thing with us and leave 'em in one. . . . Everybody used to carry their own big kind [of] bag with you. Lunch can and whatnot in there. Well, everybody carried their own canteen for water. It's about one gallon.
- JS: So, how did you feel about having to carry this gas mask when you didn't feel there was a threat?
- CA: Oh, really, I was getting bored.
- JS: And did you folks also have to build air raid shelters?
- CA: Yeah. Talk about air raid shelters. The [*Lana`i High & Grammar*] School [*now called Lana`i High & Elementary School*], where the cafeteria is, I think right on the end of the cafeteria, this side, I think still get the pine tree, you know the ironwood tree. And you look on the far end on that side, still get a few ironwood trees. Underneath the ironwood trees, under the root, they dig underneath for air raid shelter. 'Cause they figure the root can hold the ground tight and that's why they had dug underneath the root for air raid shelter. As far as the school, you know the students, the faculty and all that kind, if get air raid at least get one place to go run and hide. Because you no can hide in the building. They going blow 'em all up and you go with the building.

And they had one practice here that I'm for get. . . . People get caught in the gamble raid, guys they no care to work, they rather go gamble. They figure more easy money, eh. When they get caught in the raid and they get with them over \$200 [*in cash*], they going guarantee get fine. Those days they were allowed to carry only \$200 limit. So once you get caught in the raid, even though you pay fine, you still gotta go dig air raid shelter. They make you pay, buy *da kine*, what they call that, U.S. savings bond. Yeah, you buy the savings bond and that you can use later years, eh. You pay small fine, maybe twenty-five dollars, but still you going be assigned to go dig the air

raid shelter. I still get friends that tell, "Eh, you know that so-and-so guy, he gotta go over there every day go dig underneath the trees over there."

I tell, "Oh, yeah?"

Because they had one long line of trees. Now get the sidewalk and in between the sidewalk and the cafeteria, straight down the line, used to get *da kine* ironwood tree. One long row of trees, eh.

JS: So who else had to help build the shelters? Just those people or. . . .

CA: Well, some guys they assign 'em. No more job, slack period they. . . . Like myself and my friends we rather go make new fields, you know, up the slope, the mountain where get thick kind [*of*] trees. They like clear 'em up. We go over there and cut all the guava bushes and whatever trees get. Rather than go dig shelter—hard dig shelter.

JS: So who was the one who said to build the air raid shelters? Was it the company or did you folks do it because of the government?

CA: Shee, I'm not too sure who the. . . . 'Cause I wasn't close to the guys in charge of the [*plantation*], you know. . . . As time went by, later years, after we got organized [*in the union*] and then that's when from the bottom I came up. All of a sudden I stay up there and I know what's going on [*with the plantation management*]. Before that, I didn't know.

JS: Just do what they told you?

CA: Yeah, they just order me to do this, do that. Okay. Yeah, just like that.

JS: So what about those new fields that you were talking about? That was during the war years also?

CA: Yeah, early part of the war years.

JS: Why were you folks clearing those fields?

CA: Make new fields out of that land because the company wanted to plant their own, how you call it, something like a diversified ag [*agriculture*]. They plant their own because they going use 'em in the boardinghouses that the company own. You know the spuds. Rather than buy 'em from up Kula, you know the farms from Kula, [*Maul*], they plant 'em here then they can use the ones here. Then they don't have to go buy.

JS: So these new fields were away from the old pineapple fields then?

CA: It was more on the high. They call bench hills.

JS: Do you know if these fields for these other crops, was that because of

shortages elsewhere? Food shortages or was it the business profit-making idea?

CA: I guess so, profit-making. They just wanted to make use of the land. Plus, whatever vegetable that can be grown, they don't have to buy that much. They even used to plant carrots like that, *da kine* get root in the ground kind [*of plants*]. They used to plant that. I remember spuds. In fact they used to send some to Honolulu, because they had the cannery going which they had cafeteria, big, I think it was a big cafeteria they was running, the Dole cannery. So it wasn't all waste actually, whatever was grown here. They made use because I seen the thing go. They ship 'em out on a truck and bring 'em down to the pier, and then they load 'em on the barge.

JS: What other kind of crops did they have besides potatoes and carrots?

CA: Let's see. Had, I forget what some had. . . . You know where the new houses, back side of where I living, get new houses now. All that portion from where we came from, where we left my house [*on the corner of Houston Street and 13th Street*]. We came up to the stop sign and turn left [*on Lana`i Avenue*]. If you go the other way from there, straight across and all the way down to the road that going to Manele [*Bay*], that's all the place where get the new houses [*between Lana`i Avenue and Manele Road*]. Used to be the company garden, the original garden, where they plant anything they like that can be used for *da kine*. Whatever extra they send 'em Honolulu. They used to plant rows of hedges. Pigeon peas. You know what's that? Pigeon peas? They call *gandule* beans. You know what is that?

JS: I don't know.

CA: Pigeon peas, they call 'em *gandule* beans. It's small kind—get peas, just like sweet peas but more on the flat.

JS: Oh, yeah.

CA: Sweet peas round, eh. This one is kind of on the flat side. The beans, yeah. They plant that for windbreak, you know, windbreak. And in between the hedges, that's where they make, they plant whatever they like plant.

JS: And so these---I know these crops were used within the Dole company in the cafeterias and for the boardinghouses. Did they also sell to the . . .

CA: The people.

JS: . . . other people, the community?

CA: Chee, I don't know if they bring. . . . Maybe they brought 'em to the store, but I didn't notice. Not like now they have *da kine* people assigned to do that kind [*of*] work, diversified ag. They plant all kind—they plant papaya, now

they even plant macadamia nut, but take long time to make money with that. They plant corn, sweet corn. They plant pumpkin and what. And they bring 'em to the stores. They sell 'em to the stores. And the stores, I guess they get 'em cheaper than wherever they get 'em from outside the island. Because from here direct, you know, load 'em on the pickup truck and bring 'em to the store. They just take whatever amount they think they can sell. But most of the things they plant, I think seasonal. Seasonal because you don't see 'em every month, yeah. They go by certain kind [*of plant*], certain months. Certain kinds, certain months. We buy every now and then. But some of my friends, they just come my house, they unload. "You like papaya?" They give half a dozen or whatever.

Oh, my daughter work in the store, "Eh, get nice kind [*of*] corn. You like?"

"Yeah, put 'em on the side. I come there get 'em."

Cheap, not like the kind come from Honolulu, eh. It's way cheaper. I guess. . . . But it's not like how they were talking about the very beginning, you know. That they going establish diversified ag. Gee, the beginning part, the story real big, but now that just like getting less and less production. Not coming out the way they first talk about 'em. Maybe the truth coming out now. The guys who try to be the guys who run the operation getting less effective. They had lot of cattle but I don't know why they don't build one slaughterhouse. Because in order to kill cow and then sell, you gotta have one slaughterhouse, inspected slaughterhouse. And they raising pigs over there, too.

JS: So what happened to the slaughterhouse that used to be there?

CA: Oh, they break 'em down. They level 'em up. The place, they level 'em up and then. . . .

JS: That was when they built The Lodge at Ko`ele?

CA: Way before then, way before then. When they had the, how you say, liquidate the [*Lana`i*] Ranch [*in 1950-1951*]. They didn't want to have anything to do with ranching cattle and the piggery. They round up whatever they could round up, all the cattle they could round up. Whatever was left, they open 'em up to the residents. For person, one permit, one beef. Male or female. So we had one.

JS: And this is way after the war had ended?

CA: Yeah, yeah, way after the war had ended.

JS: So getting back a little bit to the war, especially after you were married, during the wartime were you folks shopping at some of the other plantation stores for your food? Or were you still getting it from the cafeterias or how did that work?

CA: No. There was no plantation-owned store. The only one is storeroom, and that's where you order whatever you going order. Like say you going order one bicycle for your daughter or son, you gotta go through the storeroom. If you want to order one icebox or washing machine or whatever. That's where you gotta go. That's the company-owned storeroom. Put in your order there and then they show you one catalog and then you get Sears [*Roebuck and Company*]. You agree with that, they going order for you. And then I guess you gotta make money order and send the thing to wherever came from, eh.

JS: So what about your meals as a family, you know, as a married man now? Where did you folks eat?

CA: At home.

JS: But where did you buy the food and things?

CA: At the store here [*opposite the ILWU building*] and over there used to get. . . . One more on the other side, now it's art studio or something. Right above the, right above the senior citizen's [*center*]. Over there used to be Chinese [*owner*] because the name was Yet Lung [*Store*]. They had the butcher and the grocery store. Over here they had same thing, grocery store, up here too, they had grocery store [*CA is referring to areas around the ILWU building*]. And they had butcher.

JS: And then they weren't connected to the . . .

CA: Company? No, no. This people, they running their own business. Only, until today, you know the building, it's owned by the company. The only building here, right here, this credit union and this building. This building owned by the ILWU.

JS: So the company owned the store buildings?

CA: Yeah.

JS: But the people . . .

CA: They lease.

JS: It was their own business?

CA: Yeah, it's a, how you call it, long-term lease. Like here right across the street, when they got that lot there, fifty-year, fifty-year lease. Yeah, it's up already. I think they had it renewed. Because we went on strike '51, that wasn't built yet. This [*the ILWU building*] wasn't built. After, afterward this place was built and that store right across the street was built after the seven-month strike [*February 27–September 14, 1951*]. Because right in the back of this store we had one big dining room fence. All fence up with bamboo. We went up the

mountain go get bamboo. Plenty guys went up there, was raining. I was the only one had ride, the rest of the guys walk. Me, I had army jeep, eh. Put 'em four-wheel drive, I put chain in the front, I go up the mountain, cut my bamboo, tie 'em to the jeep, I drag 'em all the way down and bring 'em over there and they cut 'em. Oh, about so high. You can just barely look over.

JS: So about five feet?

CA: Yeah, about five feet. You can just barely look—but the people don't. . . . We fence it up so that you can eat in peace, nobody looking, you know. And they put the big tarpaulin on the top. So even if it shower you still can eat.

JS: That was when, before or after the war?

CA: I think after, yeah, right after [*in 1951*].

JS: So when you folks were buying things from those other stores, how were you paying for it? Was it by cash or . . .

CA: Yeah, by cash. Yeah.

JS: So no credit?

CA: No. So you gotta know how to control your cash. You only buy what you really need because those days we used to get paid once a month, the first week of every month. So it's pretty rough though. But you have to get used to, although things were cheaper then.

JS: And you said they weren't rationing except for the liquor?

CA: Yeah. Not that I know of. . . . Because we only buy what we need, so they know we not trying to buy plenty one time and stash 'em away, because I didn't think it was a good idea to do that. Like one time we had a shortage of rice or something. People quick they go buy and buy plenty, eh. And they keep 'em. They keep 'em too long and they no move the. . . . Used to put in the sack eh, the rice. You gotta move 'em around the thing because going get *da kine* small kind [*of*] worm. You know going start moving in the bag. That's why I say, it's not a good idea to buy plenty. Buy little bit at a time, it's much better. Once somebody start doing that [*hoarding*], everybody else do that, the last guy is not going get nothing.

JS: So generally then, on Lana`i during the war years, there wasn't too much of the hoarding and shortages and things like that? Seems like things were kind of normal?

(Laughter)

CA: Yeah. I didn't see anything at the time because the only thing that was shortage was the liquor.

JS: How about some of the ways the war affected your family, you know, especially with your mother, and you had some other relatives who were back in the Philippines, right?

CA: Oh, yeah, they went Philippines.

JS: How did you feel about, you know, were you worried about them or how did you feel about this whole situation?

CA: Well, they didn't write to me until after the war. My sister did the writing. My sister wrote to me and said when the Americans left the Philippines and when they went back in and they start bombing certain place where they figure, what do you call, camps, or you know the Japanese army guys. And my father was a prisoner, their [the Japanese army's] prisoner, so when the Americans went back in they bomb the place including my father, 'cause they [*Catalino Agliam's family in the Philippines*] never see him after that.

JS: So your father had also gone back to the Philippines?

CA: Yeah.

JS: This was before the war had started?

CA: Yeah.

(Telephone rings. Taping stops, then resumes.)

JS: Okay, we were talking about your dad was in the Philippines?

CA: Yeah.

JS: Okay, so what was happening then?

CA: Because he was a prisoner [*of the Japanese, in the Philippines*], and then not very long after he was a prisoner, and when the Americans went back to the Philippines—because then when the guy left, General [*Douglas*] MacArthur, he said he shall return. When they *wen* return, oh, they bomb, they shell all the place where they figure had enemy. My dad was included in there. So later on when my sister guys, they found out that he died, then they wrote to me, let me know what had happened.

But then right at the same time, they need cash. They thought over here, gee, you find cash on the tree or something. Oh, and I was having children, yeah. I didn't have much savings. 'Cause I just starting to have family, eh. But my sister said my mother was in bad shape, eh. So I don't know. They possibly had use all their cash, they wanted some more cash. I guess they borrowed from somebody, relative maybe. And then because they knew that my dad had owned property. . . . And later my sister had let me know that,

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after knowing that my dad died, they found a will. My dad was pretty smart. Yeah, he thought about making a will, eh, for my brother older than me, myself, and my sister. Six, how you call that, parcels, just like six lots. He divide 'em equally among three. So each person get two, two, two.

Then when they couldn't get any cash from me, and my mom was in really bad shape. Then later on she pass away. Then after she [*Catalino Agliam's mother*] passed away, my sister, just to prove that she passed away, they even take one picture, one whole picture, get all my sister, the relative, and the coffin right in the center. And in the letter she [*Catalino Agliam's sister*] say that she [*Catalino Agliam's mother*] owe a lot of money to somebody, eh. And they never tell how much, but. . . . So they wanted cash to pay back the debt. So the only way I can figure out was I had property there [*in the Philippines*], and I figure that's a lot of help if I give up my property, eh. So I went to Maui, one time I went to Maui, I went to see this county attorney, and that's all politics. So because he county attorney, he get in office through our help, our vote. I went in there, I go talk to him. Make out a power of attorney and he paid the clerk for stamp, county clerk stamp 'em, ship 'em over here [*to Lana`i*]. I went to have 'em notarized, I pay three dollars and I get a big brown envelope, bring 'em post office, put 'em on the scale, put plenty stamp, send 'em, *pau*.

My sister lucky. I think she sold one [*lot*] and I suspect that she kept the other one. Because all of a sudden they no stay too long in Hawai`i, hey, these guys, they well-to-do, boy. They better [*financially*] than me and I was long time here. See. (Laughs) And now she get two daughters, yeah two daughters that own three homes each. Each of the oldest daughter and the one in between, yeah, the third one. They each own three homes.

JS: Well, what about at the beginning of the war? You know when the Japanese had bombed Pearl Harbor, and bombed and if they hit the Philippines and stuff like that, were you aware of those things?

CA: Yeah, I was aware.

JS: And what did you think about them?

CA: But I didn't have much to think about it, because like I told you [*during the break*] when we was eating—didn't I mentioned about the Japanese girl [*and other personal problems*]. That's what was happening, so it didn't bother me.

JS: You weren't worried about your . . .

CA: Yeah, I didn't. I figure nothing going happen to them. And well, although that's what I had in mind, but unfortunately my dad, you know, got hurt and that was it. That was the end.

JS: How about the Filipino community here on Lana`i, and even yourself, was there any change in the relationship between Filipinos and Japanese because

of what was happening in the Philippines?

CA: Yeah, I could sense that lot of the Filipino people, those days, the early part, they didn't care to mingle too much with the Japanese people. But then I had notice the Japanese people was well-organized, way better than the Filipinos. 'Cause the Filipinos among themselves, they fight each other, criticize one another. So hard to [*organize*] you know, the relationship was poor in comparison with the Japanese community, within the community. Later years, then they find out, then they find out. Eh, see, they can do something like that. The Filipinos—the population of Filipinos was getting more and more and more. Just like outnumbered the Japanese people in the community. But then like I say, the relationship was real poor at the time. Most of the people from the management side, just like they try to control the majority of the Filipino people, eh. But then that's later years, yeah. Especially after we went strike, then we took over. That's when we took over, yeah.

JS: What about you personally, how did you feel about the Japanese, other Japanese workers?

CA: I didn't---it didn't bother me because I even ask one friend of mine, I was working at the pier at the time, I mentioned to him, “Eh, how about you go with me go talk to my [*Japanese*] girlfriend's parents?”

He never like the idea. I guess his different [*view was*] anti-mix race. He's against the mix racial marriage. So when he told me, “No, no, he [*I*] no like get involved,” I knew he was [*against mixed marriages*—although he was good friend with me. . . .

JS: He was Filipino?

CA: No, Japanese, Japanese.

JS: Japanese.

CA: And way older than myself. I just wanted somebody to accompany me, 'cause already I talked to the [*girl's*] mother at that time. But since he [*Catalino Agliam's friend*] turned me down, oh, I might as well go myself. I went by myself. Later the old lady go see one police, Japanese guy, and the police looking for me, talk to me. He advised me to lay off because, “You wait one year and she don't need the parent's consent [*to get married*],” the police told me.

“Oh, okay.”

“If they no come see us again we not going bother you,” the police told me.

“Okay.”

That's when she [*Catalino Agliam's Japanese girlfriend*] told me, already they had somebody went there for matchmaking, eh. But good thing I didn't pursue that kind [*of marriage*]. Because then what my wife [*at that time Catalino Agliam's other girlfriend*] would have done? She might (laughs). . . .

JS: So in terms of---so you really didn't have any problems with the Filipino-Japanese relationship?

CA: Yeah, I personally didn't have anything. Because I was treated all right. And then, no, no, as far as I'm concerned, no problem.

JS: Did some of the other Filipinos. . . .

CA: Yeah, the other Filipino people, especially the kind of older guys that hard to talk story with, that's the people they kind of, they get some kind of hatred in them that hard to try wipe 'em out, until later years. After we got organized [*in unions*], that's when everything smooth out, then they understood.

JS: So were they angry at all the Japanese, even the Japanese American, you know the younger ones, or was it just the older Japanese that come from Japan? Do you know if that made a difference?

CA: No, I didn't notice *da kine*. They had a hatred for certain individual. Here, I didn't notice anything like that. It just the thought that they were, what do you call, management people, yeah. So long as they don't sort of abuse the people that they supervising. The guys working under the certain individual [*supervisor*], I don't think it's proper for them to get angry or criticize. He just gotta do his job and you gotta do your own job.

JS: So these management people you're talking about, they were Japanese or the. . . .

CA: Lot of them were Japanese. Lot of them were Filipino, too. Yeah, so both, both side. Yeah. Here the—as far as the people that live here, down here, we cannot associate with people living up on the hill up there. The people live up there, the hill up there, that place used to be called Snob Hill. [*Snob Hill referred to the area of homes where Caucasian managers isolated themselves from the workers.*]

JS: That was most of the White managers, supervisors?

CA: Yes, yeah, yeah. You know, the Hotel Lana`i, that used to be the boardinghouse for them. That's how it was. So only them can associate with the White nurses. And that's how it was. And when they get party, it's all them up there. They make, they party up there and stay there. So when they [*we*] party down this side. . . . Shee, at first over here, the store right up here, the corner, used to be a boardinghouse, and pretty big hall, about half of this they use for *da kine*. Just like hall. And one side used to be a bakery. So they ask the company if they can use that building for wedding party or

something. Well me, I had ask for the gym [*for Catalino Agliam's wedding party*]. I get the whole---all the people that live down the pier and almost half of the community, they knew me. What made me more to ask for *da kine*, the people that work, you know, for the company, plus the chef in the boardinghouse where I used to eat when I was single, he keep hustling me, hustling me, "Come on, Pete. Eh, no worry, we fix you up."

So when the time came, I went to see this chef and he tell me, "Okay, you go up there by the store, tell 'em you like two, start off with two quarter hind. Get *da kine* big beef eh, two." And we had one pork and I think the pork was one dish. One whole pork make one dish out of. . . . Just like, how you call it, catering kind [*of dish*]. They had cook 'em at the boardinghouse over there and they transfer 'em down to the gym, they go behind the gym. And from under the gym, they get one small, underneath the stage. They open up one big *da kine* window-like and all the food come in through there. And put in a big tray and get four long tables. Half of the gym was used for feed the people. The other half was guys interested in dancing, they can do their thing over there.

JS: Okay, let me change this one.

JS: This is a continuation of an interview with Mr. Pedro Agliam. Okay, we were still talking a little bit about the war and the Filipino community and the Japanese community and things like that. Did the Filipino community as a group do something for the war effort? I know you said a lot of people volunteered for army type of work, right?

CA: Yeah, yeah, yeah. Yeah, weekends we get drill at the ballpark. Today it's not the ballpark, get housing over there and a big cafeteria. That used to be a ballpark. That's where used to have weekend, get drill. If not drill, they get baseball game going. And we had one bandstand, bleachers, and the Lana`i community band provided by the company. And the instruments all by the company and the bandleader was paid by the company. And so had lot of recreation going on. The company sponsor . . .

JS: During the war?

CA: Yeah, even during the war. Yeah. Before and after the war going on, still had baseball league. They had several teams, you know, competing with one another. And then when get county fair at Maui, the winner go over there and go challenge the Maui guys over there.

JS: And they still had these fairs during the war years, too?

CA: Yeah, the county fair was, still had yet those days. [*The annual Maui County Fair was canceled from 1942 until its revival in October 1946.*]

JS: Well, what other types of recreation was there during the war years?

CA: Well, they had boxing, young man join boxing. They had volleyball. They had *da kine* two-man, you know, volleyball, and only two. They were good players we had, used to get. Had some players they come from Big Island and they challenge the people over here. But they bring all good kind [*of*] guys, too, from Big Island. Guys, they [*watching*] on the outside and they tell, "Eh, I get so much [*money*]." He like take me on, well that's up to him. Show 'em the money and. . . Those was people that could afford.

JS: So what about the volunteer group then, what kinds of things were they doing? Oh, you were in this volunteer group, right?

CA: Yeah, I was with them but they had, just like once a month, something like that, they pick after they had go through everybody on the target range, they knew exactly who the best for shoot, eh. Target shooters. They pick the three best. One was a businessman, Filipino guy, old. The other one, management people, people from management, Portuguese guy, tall. The other guy was Filipino, my brother-in-law. Three top shooters. They used to go once a month. They go on the boat, *da kine* sampan, I don't know who own. I don't know the county pay or the company pay. They go and they stay overnight and then they come back. They go Moloka`i, they go challenge the guys over there. They go Maui and they stay overnight and challenge *da kine*. I guess that's same kind [*of groups*], within voluntary group, eh.

And that's how when they go practice, way before they go, one week before they go [*compete*], they gotta go have some practice down the target range. So my brother-in-law call me for go put up the target for him. They get a target pit, we go in the pit and push up the target. After they shoot. . . They tell us how many rounds they going shoot, eh. And then, after that we hear quiet, we pull down the target. We patch, patch all the target. And then we push 'em back up. And if in the bull's-eye then we put up the black. Push 'em up, you know, we get one plate nailed to one wood eh. Push 'em up and we mark. They, how many. . . They prone, like lying down, they sit, and then they standing. I think twenty rounds, more I think. Oh, by the time they pass 'em over to us, the gun is hot. And lot of recoil. But just for the excitement I go. I like the practice, too.

Three of us used to go. One of them was the guy that, my friend that beat up the crane operator. The one that I had mention, down by the harbor. He was one of the guys that every time that get practice, he was one of the guys that go down there. Because he know that when they finish, they going pass the gun over to us and they go over there and mark the target. So we try keep ourselves busy.

JS: So it's more like competition kind of things between the islands and the groups?

CA: Yeah, yeah.

JS: Did they do very much in terms of for the war effort? You know, did they---I know that you folks had to train with target training and things like that, but what other kinds of volunteer work were you folks supposed to do? Or was it just to prepare for. . . .

CA: That's about it. Yeah, just to prepare just in case get invasion. They just give you the weapon, you supposed to know what to do with it. Not just let hold and don't know what to do with 'em. We were trained to, you know, learn how to use the weapon, the gun. That's about it. Other than that, later on they move out and then had the National Guard people came in.

JS: So the volunteering, that was the Hawai`i Territorial Guard?

CA: No, just the island. Just the island itself.

JS: So did the group have a name, then? Or was it just a volunteer group?

CA: I guess, Lana`i Volunteers, I guess. Lana`i Volunteers group, I think. Because was---mostly was Filipino people. But had Hawaiian, Portuguese like that. Had. So cannot be Lana`i Filipino Volunteer. Cannot, cannot be, because had mix race inside.

JS: But not Japanese?

CA: No, no, not. Only Japanese well, they stayed out of it. Because I guess, inside they felt they were hated by some of these guys. Only thing, they don't come out with it. But they just feel that they not wanted like. Me, I didn't care. It didn't bother me. I can get along with anybody. And worse yet, some of the Filipino guys, they hate me because I was good friend. . . . I had one friend, eh, Japanese girl, and we have to ride old kind [oʻ] truck. Take you one hour go down Keomuku, and wasn't paved. Or down Manele. One hour for get down, take about hour and a half for reach back up. The road bumpy. Oh man, you ride in *da kine* big truck, just like get fence right around. Get one step in the back. You climb up the step, eh. And then get the gate, they close the gate, they put up the step. And you stay over there, you bring your own lunch. So my friend and I used to go together. And our friend, both of them, they tell us, "No worry, we take care the *bent_*."

JS: This is your Japanese friend?

CA: Mhm. And people they see and they talk behind our back, because small community. They see me and my friend go, eh. What make it worse is had war, eh. But for us, me and my friend, eh, didn't bother us. We just go. Because those days, every Saturday, get dance at the gym. Some of them come over there ask me, ask me dance. Oh. They see me taking a break, "Eh, come on. I going be embarrassed otherwise." So I gotta stand up because I no like them feel embarrassed, eh, I turn them down, eh. So

there's nothing like that anymore.

JS: So were you, you know when you were going out with your Japanese friends and things like that, were you ever stopped by the military police? Or I mean the military people?

CA: No, no. Because we don't go home late nighttime. We didn't. Because the dance, noon. By the time the sun going down, everything is over, everybody gotta go home. Even the theater, matinee, about two o'clock. So within two hours maybe, the movie finish, eh. So by the time two o'clock, come four o'clock, four-thirty start again. Then by six-thirty, just coming dark again. Finish, everybody come up, come out, going home. Straight home.

JS: Because of the curfew?

CA: Yeah. For when I was single, gotta get on the bus, go back down the pier. Work down at the—I live down there. On the bus, you miss the bus, that's it.

JS: But was the military---did you folks really notice their presence other than them just being here? Did you folks associate with them at all?

CA: Well, had [*military*] people that were stationed down at the pier. Even during working hours. They had one, how you call that, sandbag *da kine*. And they had one machine gun inside. And we was working, middle of the week now. And whale came close to the breakwater, eh. This stupid guy, the whale come up, rat-a-tat.

Had one Hawaiian guy, kind of old man, eh, he tell, "These guys going feel sorry. He shouldn't do that." Sure enough, boy, that night big kind [*of*] wave. They had to abandon that place because the water was going over, over even including the sandbag stuff. They had to carry the machine gun and all get away from there (chuckles).

After that incident, the old man and me we talk story, he tell me, "See what happened?"

"Yeah."

"*Akua* (knows)—if you not supposed to do 'em, he going get it."

I just don't say nothing, I just smile.

JS: So once the military started leaving the islands, did you folks feel any effects of that? Or was it just everything the same?

CA: Yeah, everything was, yeah. Because after they left—because most of them were all White. When they left, then local people came in. That's the National Guard men, within Maui *da kine*. And one of them was resident from here, one of those guys in that group. And local guys, so mostly Hawaiian, yeah.

When you look at 'em, either part-Hawaiian or Hawaiian. All mix kind [*of race*], eh. But to me, didn't bother because we get along with local guys. Even during *da kine* when had all the servicemen, the White guys. Get dance like that, they come on truck, eh. One truckload. They get on the floor once in a while. They make friends. To me, I figure, don't bother me. So long as they don't step on your toes, that's all right. Just make friends.

JS: So did you make friends with some of them?

CA: Yeah, some of them. Make friends with them. Every now and then we see 'em down the pier where I was working, when I was working down the pier. By the time I got married [*in 1943*], I think they hardly was around already, the White guys. Was mostly the local guys.

But it's something though, when we like get together but no can. [*CA is talking about his relationship with a Japanese girlfriend.*] Worst yet, the mother tell, "*Shee, too bad you not Japanese. Right here I would tell you, yeah okay [to get married].*" But too bad you different racial."

I no can talk. She [*Catalino Agliam's girlfriend*] wanted we take off go Maui. Aw, shucks. And then I think, nah, I no more family there already. My mom left, my dad left. Gee, hard eh, to *da kine*. I still gotta go find job yet over there. Whereas if I no go away, I already had job here [*in Lana`i*]. So I tell, "No, either we right here or not at all." And sure enough she accepted the, how you call that, matchmaking. But after that I just tell, "No hard feeling." We had a wonderful time. Only thing, the husband never like the idea every time I ask her dance. Maybe he no like the idea just looking at us and holding each other close, eh (laughs).

JS: So did you keep your friendships with some of your Japanese friends then throughout the war?

CA: Did I what?

JS: You kept all your friendships with the Japanese?

CA: Yeah, yeah.

JS: Were you working with a lot of Japanese, you know, once you moved to the pier and things like that?

CA: Yeah. Even during the war, had some Japanese American boys working over there. Mostly big guys though. I work with them when I was single until first year I get married. I join football team, barefoot league, 125 pound. Weight limit was 130 pound. So I was just under 130, so to me didn't matter. I just can eat whatever, all I want. Not like some other guys, they gotta reduce, eh. They gotta starve to hold their weight down. Me, no, I just eat all the steak I can eat. And it didn't matter to me the guy more big than me. Nobody scare me, those days [*/*] young eh. And our coach tell, "Eh, you condition up, hard

to get hurt. Your body working and all the muscle come real tough." And for real.

JS: And this was also when you were working at the pier?

CA: Yeah, I was working at the pier.

JS: Did you notice any hard feelings between the Japanese workers and maybe the supervisors or the other workers there? While you folks were all working together?

CA: You mean down at the pier?

JS: Yeah.

CA: Well, not that I. . . . Had elderly, well I consider elderly compared with my age. I was young yet. Japanese supervisors. But I didn't notice anybody take it out on him. Because him being a Japanese, no. Because the supervisor above that guy, he was Portuguese. And nobody, you know. . . . Rather than the Japanese, oh, most of the guys they kind of gang up on the Portuguese guy. The top guy. The head of the harbor, the guy in charge. Because he get bad mouth. When he talking, just like he talking to somebody that he consider rubbish. Which is bad. Later on the years, they put 'em in his place (chuckles).

JS: Did you folks have any kind of organizing back then? Even though the union wasn't really formed yet, was there some kind of. . . .

CA: Oh, no. No, nothing, real nothing until somebody somehow had sneak in as one. . . . Oh, I forgot his name, Japanese guy. He came in to work for the company here. And I didn't know till later that he was an organizer. So mostly the first guys he contacted was the guys that driving truck and the guys that work in the shop.

JS: And this was after the war had ended?

CA: Yeah.

JS: So you were already a truck driver then?

CA: Yeah, because I was a truck driver from '45. That's about, you know. . . . So by the time come '46, that's when people came in from PI [*Philippine Islands*]. Shee, that's when I found out that guy was an organizer. And then the ones that he first organized, they try to drag me in with them. They said, "Oh, going get class, *da kine* steward seminar. We go, we go attend so we know what the hell is going on." So little by little they try to convince me go with them, little by little. Then all the more I go.

And then the instructor, he keep saying, "If you get any question, put your

hand up and just ask the question.” And I did that many times, you know, and this guy, they take notice, eh. But that's the only way you going learn. If you don't know about something and you want to know, you interested in knowing, you put your hand up and you ask the question what you want to know about. And then they going give you the answer right there. And you keep on doing that, you going learn more and more. That's what learning is about, eh. So I keep on doing that. Later when they went on strike, the first time we went on strike, that's the one was violent, only two weeks. [*On July 11, 1947, Lana`i took part in a territory-wide pineapple strike which lasted about one week and was marked by violence.*]

JS: That was in 19—?

CA: Forty-nine [*seven*]. Yeah, that was 1949 [*1947*]. Just like we only went to class. Learn about the union, learn about what is a contract. All that kind [*of*] stuff. So by the time came '51, when they talk about going on strike, at the meeting, I look at the guys sitting there and I think, “I wonder if only mouth they doing?” This guys only strong talk, when actually you gotta do 'em. I just put my hand up, “Eh, no look at me because I get family so you count me out now. If you can, I can. I go all the way with you. There's no turning back once we get started, you gotta go all the way for win, not like what happened last time. Not like that. That's not the way to do it.”

JS: So this is the seven-month strike [*of 1951*]?

CA: Yeah.

JS: And you folks were already organized by then?

CA: Yeah.

JS: You folks were organized by the 194[7] strike?

CA: Well, well.

JS: Or was that just starting?

CA: Yeah, from there we start forming the. . . . Because after the 194[7] one, because I saw actually what had happen before the strike. We go up to the bank, the guys come get their cash and we go ask for donation to build a strike fund. That's not the way to do it. You gotta prepare way before the strike, so I was one of the guys that insisted we gotta build a—we no can say strike fund, we had to call it trust fund. But actually that going be used in case of strike. Yeah. I was the guy who mentioned that and I insisted even to the guys in Honolulu, there's no way you can get enough if you only ask for volunteer. Volunteer not going to work. You gotta make everybody gotta pitch in. So payroll deduction is the only way. And that's how it went. A certain percentage, small. Everybody little by little, little by little. Today hundreds of thousands of dollars. When I retired, before I retired, they had

shee, way over \$200,000. Way over. I don't know how much now, but they use plenty money for send delegates from here, go attend the convention. They allotted to use so much, the local [*union office*] going pay. And not enough, get some more guys like go, they take out from the trust fund. They just go get money and use that money. I don't know why.

Because when I was still active, I was vice-chairman at the time here [*on Lana`i*], Shiro Hokama was the chairman. When came twenty-year anniversary of the ILWU here on Lana`i—what that, '46, so that means '66, twenty years. We invited Jack Hall, we invited John Burns, he was governor already that time. I was the general chairman of the whole thing. I had planned everything out, and we get meeting, officers' meeting, call the steward, all the steward, council.

I come with one paper plate, eh, big paper plate. “Here, I show you what I think. You guys tell me if you guys disagree or what. Here you get [*on the*] paper plate, rice, *kalua* pig, beef, barbecue beef, get `*opihi*, or what else, Filipino-style one. Some guys they like 'em with blood, eh. There you are, right there. One plate. You like rice or poi, you get choice.” That's how I went.

And everything including---the `*opihi*, I had organize the crew for go get two times, we went two weekends. I organize forty-five women to shell the `*opihi* because when they come back, *da kine* big kind [*of*] *tarai*, the tub, full with `*opihi*. You know the meat, we had eleven gallon, you know *da kine* big mayonnaise gallon jar. Eleven of them. You never heard of that kind [*of*] luau [*lu`au*] that at one party they put out, dish out ten gallon `*opihi*. This was the first, yeah. And you no forget the thing. The guys, they was surprised. It cost the union whatever it cost to buy fifteen case of beer for that eleven gallon of `*opihi*. I was the brains behind that, yeah. I hustle the guys and I hustle the ladies. Eh, certain afternoon you come there, twelve o'clock, twelve, twelve-thirty, be there, no come more late. Because that's our party. I tell 'em, “That's our party. We gotta get together and everybody go do something.”

JS: So this was after you had been in the union for quite a while. So you basically started getting involved in 1946, when the Filipino immigrants were coming in. Is that when you first started getting involved with the union?

CA: Oh, yeah. About somewhere around there. After, after.

JS: After they were coming in?

CA: Yeah, after. They were in already and then had some of them that because lot of them, they come and they, I don't know how you put it, they claim they went through so much education. So me being a dropout, I wouldn't try to compete with people like that. If they that educated, let 'em lead if they want to. If they can. So, but then afterward I find out, when we went through seven months of strike, those guys with better education than me, kind of hard to compete with me because the guys [*other workers*], they back me up. The majority of the guys, they see me, what I did during the strike, and

the way I speak, yeah. Already they no care, even if you tell 'em, "No, no, no. I no like."

"No, we like you to be there." They insist [*that Catalino Agliam help with union organizing*]. Especially the older the folks.

JS: So who were the leaders then, of the organizing? Were they other Filipinos or were they. . . .

CA: Yeah, they had other Filipinos. Maybe at that time, I don't know if one or two years or same age like me. But the way they talk, they speak like they educated people.

JS: From Hawai'i though?

CA: No, they was educated in the Philippines and came here, see. So when they call membership meeting, we used to get our meeting at the old gymnasium. We all get over there. See, those days, early days, I couldn't speak in front the public. I kind of hold back. Although there's something that I want to say, but I didn't have the guts to come out with it yet, at the time, not until I really got involved, the second time we went on strike, the seven-months one.

JS: So what were the---the 194[7] and the 1951 strikes, they were very different in terms of violence, right?

CA: Yeah.

JS: Was it, the strike, mostly because for pay or working conditions?

CA: Oh, they were working conditions and a lot of different classification supposed to be upgraded, the company didn't bother. The pay, we wanted [*a raise of*] twelve cents [*an hour*]. They [*the company*] say right there, "Ten [*eight*] cents and nothing else."

JS: That was for which strike?

CA: The '51. And almost a similar kind [*of*] demand we had, '4[7], the one lasted two weeks [*one week*] was similar kind [*of*] demands. But they had hire scab. That's what we couldn't hold our people, you know, "This is a nonviolent union." Those days you cannot tell like that because these guys, they just going broke loose and going [*be violent*].

JS: That was for the 194[7] one?

CA: Yeah, but we had learn our lesson at that time. Management people, the lower management people that get involved day-to-day kind [*of situations*] with the workers, that's the people that told to the top management that if there will be another strike, they told management that they won't allow

themselves to be used, yeah. Because small community and everybody know everybody, so hard, eh. So that's the reason why. It was a peaceful strike, everybody have to manage on their own. But we workers, we wasn't too worry about starving, because we had from the Mainland, all over the place we had donations, contributions like that.

JS: But the 1951 strike was just a Lana`i strike?

CA: Yeah, just Lana`i alone.

JS: The 194[7] one also?

CA: I think so. [*The 1947 strike was industry-wide.*]

JS: So the big difference then was that the organizing, and people had learned their lesson from the first strike?

CA: Yeah.

JS: So it [*the 1951 strike*] was a lot more peaceful?

CA: Yeah. Instead of using a lot of the cash bailing out people, we used the cash for food. Feed the members and their families.

JS: And that's why they built the cafeteria, or I mean the food. . . .

CA: Yeah, the dining room, or the bamboo dining room. Somebody had take one picture of that place. I think I saw one time. I don't know who, but we used to have movies. Sometimes twice a week in that, you know, after dinner is done already, everybody had dinner already. Then later when they finish their work, the chief cooks, all the workers [*have*] free time, then they bring out the projector, they run the movies. So we didn't have to worry about going up to the theater. We had movies right there.

JS: In 1951, was also the year you became a union officer, right?

CA: After the strike, yeah. [*Catalino Agliam was elected vice-chairman of ILWU, Local 142, Unit 36.*]

JS: After the strike.

CA: Yeah.

JS: And how did you eventually, how did you get that. . . .

CA: Gee, I had the hardest time to, how you say, adjust myself, my personality. Gee, I couldn't---I told them, chee, I was getting the hardest time communicate with my father-in-law or my mother-in-law guys. Because once I get into top office like that, I gotta be able to communicate with them. So I

was forced to learn from them, my father-in-law guys, my brother-in-law. I gotta ask them, "Eh, what did he say? What did he mean by saying this and that?"

JS: You mean learn Ilocano?

CA: Yeah, that's the part. As far as English, I didn't have much problem, although I was a dropout in early years of schooling. But shee, but I had to learn and I did learn fast, you know. Because I had already get in contact with some of the guys that I teach drive. Driving, eh, teach them driving. So talk story with them and then they tell me certain words you can say it now in this term. But you can say the same word, but that going mean different. I had to understand all *da kine* stuff, you know.

JS: So you were a really good link then, between the English-speaking and the Filipino [*Ilocano*]-speaking?

CA: Yeah, that's why I got stuck for twenty years. That's why they didn't want to let me go. Even after I lost one [*union*] election, they wanted me to go back. They came to see me. In fact, one of the guys that had organize to, help organize the guys that wanted me out [*of office*], he admitted to me that he was one of those guys that had organize to get me off. He admitted in my face, down at the airport. I came home from charter commission meeting from Maui, two guys was waiting for me at the airport, trying to convince me because we was getting into *da kine* election of officers. So they hustle me to get into the act again. I tell 'em, "No, sorry. I not going to be used again. 'Nough, I had sacrifice twenty years that's. . . . I think I did more than my share. That's about time I stay home with my family." Because all those years, the union come first. Gotta be one wedding or one funeral, otherwise union first. If only birthday party, forget it, I going union. That's how it was with me.

JS: So exactly what kind of duties did you have as an officer? You know, what were you supposed to do?

CA: As a vice-chairman, eh, your number one job is to organize. You gotta keep the organization solid as much as possible. And I think that's the reason why, as far as politics, that had lot to do as far as Lana`i because we were, you know, especially those days, I had just about learn enough to speak in Ilocano. So. . . .

JS: And those were the years when you said, you mentioned before [*in the pre-interview*] that you and Shiro Hokama, right, were kind of alternating the chairmanship?

CA: Yeah, the early part, yeah, the early part we amongst we. . . . Just he and I, we had that understanding that, you know, I think we should do this, do that, you know. And that was one of the things, the early part. Because then we can take turns, the chairman, when get negotiation, the chairman is the one

every time gotta go, eh, attend. And he going get stuck, the chairman going get stuck being a member of subcommittee, negotiation subcommittee. And sometimes not only subcommittee, you end up sometimes sub-subcommittee. You know from the subcommittee, kind of big group, from there only four guys maybe, and that's all.

So I tell him, "Better we make, you know, like how we talk about [*taking turns as chairman*]. This election me, next election you, you go, yeah." That's why one year, I got stuck. Concerned shop guys, and me I'm not a mechanic. How you call that now? They get *da kine* they go through just like school. There's a name for it.

JS: Apprentice, apprenticeship?

CA: Yeah, apprentice, apprentice program.

JS: Apprenticeship.

CA: That was the subject of the negotiation, including the shop people. So because [*I*] being the chairman, he [*Shiro Hokama*] tell me, "Nah, you gotta go, you chairman."

I tell 'em, "Nah, but it concerns you guys that work in the shop."

"Nah, but no can help, you chairman, you go. They not talking about the technical kind [*of*] stuff, they talking about the in principle kind [*of*] stuff. They no can get around you. You know what they talking about," he tell me. So I got stuck. And now, every time I come home I call 'em up . . .

(Telephone rings. Taping stops.)

JS: Okay, we were still talking about the union.

CA: With Shiro. Yeah. Now.

JS: And so you were a union officer and you were representing Lana`i, right?

CA: Yeah.

JS: And that was until 1970 about?

CA: Yeah, something.

JS: Around there?

CA: Around there.

JS: And all this time you were still a truck driver for the Dole company?

CA: Mhm.

JS: So how did that affect your work though, being a union officer and having to work? Did you have enough time to do everything?

CA: Well, being a union officer, it's a nonpaid [*nonpaying*] job. You do everything for love and that's it. It's not a paid official. That's voluntary. You providing service, yeah, and lot of times it's a forced kind of thing. You forced to do it. Otherwise if you don't do it, you not the leader. No make sense they call you one leader, you not going do nothing about it. Well, that's how it was. It was a nonpaying job so not too many people were willing to do it.

That's why, to me, between Shiro and I, good thing I had associate with people like him and his brother [*Goro Hokama*] 'cause they bright, they smart. I learn a lot from them. When they stay around, we no care who we going meet face-to-face. If we going argue with the top management, we no care whether the guy president, vice president of the company. It didn't matter to us. As long as we together and we know what we talking about, yeah. And this kind [*of*] guys, you no can go over there and tell, "Oh, I think it's supposed to be like this." You gotta be specific when you talk about something.

JS: You know, working for the same company all those years, how do you feel things changed from before the union and after the union?

CA: Yeah, well, let me give you one example. This came from the mouth of one Filipino, elderly supervisor, he taking care us, he supervising us. And we can talk story because odd job, slack period with the hoe, cutting grass, eh. Just odd job so. . . . He tells me, and he knew I was involved with the union, officer, he tell me, "Eh, Pete, you know before when never get union, shee, the management people, all get horn. The worker talk too much, just like one billy goat, going bump the guy with the horn eh. But today, it's not so, it's the other way around."

(Laughter)

CA: Then I think, yeah, you got a point there (chuckles). And for real, that's how it happened. Only the top guys, yeah. We no talk to the guys underneath, you know the underneath guys [*the direct supervisors to the workers*], kind of little bit hard to talk to. We go one step above or two step above, talk to this so-and-so guy. Convince 'em, "We no like go up there [*to top management*] now. You going face us up there, conference room." Which they no like. Because when we go to the top management and we going mention about what the grievance is about. Then the manager, he going down and down the ladder and he going pin down whoever was it. So lot of them [*lower management*], they try to get away from that kind.

I used to contact Japanese guys. They under the top management, they

underneath. I tell em, "Eh, you know, we get problem, eh, whatever problem we get you know that whether it's directly or indirectly, going involve you guys, eh. Going affect you guys. Whatever affect us going affect you guys. How about we go talk story? I'll get some beer. Come down over the house, we talk story about it." That's how we iron 'em out.

And I think some Filipino guys, they think what I was doing, bad, eh. But I did that because of the relationship within the management and me being a top [union] officer, yeah. I don't want to see guys, whether the guy Japanese or Filipino, the low supervisor get hurt. So I try correct 'em by telling his supervisor for tell 'em, "Eh, you better correct yourself." That way he not going to lose his job. Yeah, because if you bring 'em up to top management—more worse my friend, just passed away, ho when he talk, boy, he's not diplomatic kind [of] person. Not like Goro. He rough. When he talk, man, real rough, but me, I look around, look around. Yeah, he don't give a damn, yeah, yeah (chuckles). When he talk he just come out and say it, yeah.

So that's the reason why they like me, lot of these [lower] management people, because some stuff I figure unnecessary to bring 'em up there, we only going up there spend time with top management and raise hell with them. That way no need. Lot of times we come here [to the ILWU hall], we meet conference room. Lot of times we come here, the store still open, we go in there buy beer, put table out there. Drink, talk story. No job, nobody talk about job. Just talk story about something else, fishing or hunting or what. That's how it was.

And to associate with people, Shiro was the guy that insisted—he the one break me in. I was all the way prolabor, antimanagement from the beginning. I didn't want to do anything with management people. I mean the beginning part, until as years go by. Then he convince me, we go meet with the guys and then they said they like get together with us after the session, eh. Okay, we fight them tooth and nail at the conference room. But, whether we come here or one of those management people, they invite us to their place, we go. See, that's how it supposed to be, eh, you know small community like this. That's how it supposed to be. The way you get the relationship, eh, within the community. You can't ask for more.

That's why I was willing to serve, you know, when we first organized the band booster club here on Lana'i. We were [among] the first in the state to organize a band booster club, yeah. And they put me in charge because I was a truck driver. They put me in charge of transportation. So for transportation, I had to go talk to the top management for use of the trucks, the equipment. And I gotta convince the drivers, me being a truck driver and a union officer. I have to convince at least one dozen people volunteer the service. No ask for pay, free. We do the job, free. What more can the community ask, eh.

We go down the, you know, we get how you call that now, we get concert, band festival. I think the third time we had, first time was 370 [people] or something like that. Then the next time around we had about 500, that

includes chaperon. The third time, we had 'em again, 700 people. You gotta ride truck from the airport to here. They all excited, the children, ride truck. Eh, I was in charge transportation. Oh, I look the high school children in the band, they gotta help the driver that in charge of the baggage, eh. "Eh, handle 'em good. You no like yours, somebody throw your baggage like that. Make 'em good. What if something broke inside there?" I scold them, eh.

JS: So this is picking up bands coming from the other islands?

CA: Yeah. We had from Big Island, Konawaena, Konawaena High School band came over here. Maui. Most of 'em come from Maui. Had Makawao, Kahului, Baldwin High School all went, too. I think Lahaina Luna, then I think had Lahaina Luna, too. And then had one from O`ahu I think came over. Oh, they was surprised. They think, how the hell we handle, you know. The big kind [of] jet, the Hawaiian Airlines jet, every half an hour land at the airport. We gotta take off, come up [to *Lana`i City*], unload. We know just exactly where to drop the people and where to bring the baggage. Because we had planned that over and over. I go to the meeting, attend meeting, eh. The transportation and the housing gotta get together.

So what we did, we had *da kine* color, you know *da kine* ribbon stuck to your suitcase or whatever your baggage. For maybe Makawao, as an example, the color supposed to be maroon ribbon stuck to your baggage and then the other school, Baldwin High School, different color and so on down the line. That's how. And I get map, I give to the drivers map, so we know exactly where they going stay. Boy, we fill up all the dormitories. And we make the concert, I think we had plan 'em mostly before the summer season. Because summer season cannot, we get all how you call that, dormitories all filled with seasonals, eh, coming from Mainland, Utah, Idaho. Hundreds of them.

JS: To help on the plantation?

CA: Yeah, help the plantation harvest and mostly planting. They were real farm workers. They hardworking people. And from O`ahu, girls, they live right below my house, that building right below my house, all girls (laughs). Once in a while they get boyfriend, eh. Eh, the boy go over there, he no can go inside the house. The girls not allowed to bring the boyfriend inside the building, eh. So they stay outside by the porch. Oh boy, just like you watching TV.

(Laughter)

CA: Sometime I pass by, I look this guy, I tell, "Eh, you can go in the movies."
(Laughs)

JS: Well, you know, you did all these organizing and helping the union so much, why did you leave them? Why did you leave them in 1970s?

CA: Because I was already voted out of office [for *vice-chairman*]. When they had

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vote me out of office already, personally, I felt, "Shee, if they never have the confidence in me up to that time, I think I did enough. I did help enough."

JS: Do you know why they voted you out?

CA: Because had a lot of younger people.

JS: So, just the kind of changing?

CA: Yeah, they wanted a change in the face as far as top officers. They wanted that. In fact, they had go around with the petition sign, make people sign. But the petition, the heading, they made false charges that say in effect, well, to what the wording was, accusing the officers of not helping when they [union members] ask for help. It's like the officers didn't care to help. That's the kind [of] charges.

We had one stop-work meeting right in here [*the ILWU hall*]. The whole building was full. Had people outside, couldn't take everybody, had lot of people outside, both side of the building. Had the top officers, ILWU, the president [*of Local 142*], Carl Damaso at the time, and Secretary-Treasurer Newton Miyagi, they also came here. They conducted the meeting because they figure was serious, eh. They saw so many names on the, you know, that had sign the petition. But I had one copy way before the meeting. They sent me, the local officer sent me one copy of the petition. I look at some names, eh. Right across the street from my garage, he sign, the wife sign, the wife was working in the store. And then one other person, I look at the name, he sign, the wife sign, the kids sign. The kids go school. They not member of the ILWU over here. So all the more I get suspicious. And I read that charges. Nobody came to ask for help, you know. In my mind I was thinking, "How can be? Me, I honest. Why should I disregard them? If they needed help, really needed help, I would stick my neck out."

And me, I'm the very person that had organize the seasonals. First was only regulars, eh, workers. Then we had the non-regular, just a handful of guys, less than twenty [*years old*], younger people. They were considered non-regulars. That's the next guys that will become a regular worker. But then in the meantime, because was getting close to negotiation again, I was the guy responsible for organizing all the womenfolks, including my wife them. They were seasonals for how many year after year after year. They were considered seasonals. So they no more benefit. We ask for raise, we [*the regulars*] the only ones that get raise.

So in negotiation, Shiro was attending, he was chairman at the time here. I tell 'em, "Eh, you bring 'em up in *da kine*. Tell Jack, Jack Hall. Oh, we ready. If they [*the company*] like take us on, send labor relations, what you call *da kine* vote here." They like challenge us, the company—which never happen, they considered that we had 'em organized. And they were included, how many hundred seasonals.

Then as the years go by, had most of them, the very ones that I had organize, they go sign petition. They like get me out of office. They should have done it during the election time. Get me out of office and they put up one candidate against me. See. Because at that meeting that we had about the petition, the guy Carl Damaso, he read the thing, eh. You know he mention about the—because stop-work meeting so we got to do 'em just within two hours. Stop-work meeting. So he read the charges and then after he read the charges, I was way in the back and in center had one place where they put up one mike over there. I walk up to the mike and tell 'em, "Mr. President, the petition, the thing that you just read is nothing but lies. I debate with anybody here, I take on anybody."

All quiet, long time nobody talk, they look around. "And I mean anybody, I should repeat, debate on this issue. I say it's all lies." And I show 'em. I get my copy, eh.

Nobody. Then finally had one guy had the nerve for stand up. And he was one of those that had go out, make people sign. He stand up, he went to the mike, he said, "Eh, we want one new officer." That's meaning me for step out and they going replace me, eh.

Then the president, he smart, Carl Damaso, he no fool around that guy. "You folks missed the boat. You folks should have done that the last election. Now, you gotta wait for the next election. The last election you had your chance that time, but since you didn't do it, you gotta wait for the next election. And you guys put up whoever you guys want for office, be your guys' officer."

So that's when these guys got together, then. . . . And right after that meeting, plenty of the guys, they knew I had the copy of the guys who went sign, eh. They knew I knew who the people, eh, had sign. Oh, they come to me, they apologize, yeah. They didn't know was all false charges, that's why they sign.

JS: So, did you run for the . . .

CA: No, I, that was . . .

JS: After that you stopped?

CA: Yeah I stopped. Right there and then I stopped.

JS: But you were still a truck driver right?

CA: I was still a truck driver, but then I was appointed as a temporary business agent because Shiro—although somebody else was elected to the office, yeah, Shiro, if he was here, he would be appointed as a temporary business agent. Because had new union officer, new vice-chairman so. . . . And they cannot communicate with top management. They never did have experience with top management. So both of them, the chairman and the vice-chairman,

some pitiful.

And good thing, the guy Thomas Yagi had appointed me. Because when get problem, gotta go up there and meet with top management. If only them, they no can open their mouth, they cannot say even if they know what to say, they not used to, you know, in front top management. So it made a lot of difference. That's why good thing Thomas Yagi had appointed me to be temporary business agent. So once a week I stay home from work, maybe let's say Friday, yeah. Friday I go out to the turnout area, all the people, truck drivers, the pickers, the ladies, the men, I go right down the line. "You get problems? You guys get problems, eh, let me know." So any kind of problem. If I gotta go clinic or hospital . . .

(Telephone rings. Taping stops, then resumes.)

JS: Okay, so you were still working with the union right?

CA: Yeah, on a . . .

JS: Temporary basis?

CA: Yeah, on a temporary basis. They didn't like the idea. The guys, they felt hurt, you know, the ones that was in office, but then they couldn't do what they supposed to do. They couldn't face management. I had to go there and I the one be the spokesman for the group. Because the chairman himself, he never did attend one time while he was in office. The two years that he was in office, he never did attend one session, what we call labor relations sessions with the top management. Never did. He always get an excuse not to attend. That's how it was. But I don't know how the people had confidence in voting for the guy. And that's the truth.

JS: So how long were you working with the union even on these temporary basis? Even up until you retired?

CA: No, until about maybe '72. Only on a temporary basis. Then from there on, I don't get involved already.

JS: So you were just. . . .

CA: Just ordinary member, yeah.

JS: And so then, you retired in 1982 as a truck driver right?

CA: Mhm.

JS: And so this whole time, even in the union, you were still driving the pineapple back and forth to the pier and from the fields?

CA: Yeah, from the fields to the station or down to the pier. All the way until I

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retired. Until the first day of February of '82. Because my birthday fall on the thirteenth [*of February*], so it's not beyond the fifteenth [*day of the month*]. If was beyond the fifteenth, then I could work the full month, but because before the fifteenth, I can just drop off already.

JS: So after you retired from the Dole company, then did you do any other kind of work? Any other job? Or that was it?

CA: They came to see me two years in a row for same job, same pay. My children they mad, they tell, "That's retirement. Retirement is once you retire you don't work anymore for anybody. You go where you like go. You go fishing or whatever you like do you go. Forget it, job."

JS: So they were shorthanded? They needed. . . .

CA: They were shorthanded and they wanted me over there. Maybe they wanted me just be another driver in addition to what they had, eh. Because they had, just before I retired, they stop complete, stop training drivers. So no sense I go work. They had made good use of me, yeah. And I was kind of fed up with the company at that time because we had some equipment problem with some trucks. This up-to-date kind [*of*] truck and we use air. You know the thing is thirteen-speed truck, eh. And only one stick, now. You get one button you flip from low you go. . . . Gee, I kind of forget already. Anyway, from low [*gear*] you go, get two more *da kine*. And you can flip 'em. And end up thirteen total, you know. Total speed. The transmission, they. . . .

The engineer, he no believe me, he side with the supervisor in Honolulu. You know when I say he side with the guys, the supervisor over there, of the mechanics, insist that the mechanic who had done the transmission job on a certain truck, he wasn't at fault. He did the right thing, eh. But I tell the engineer here, "No, he must have made the mistake. How come from first [*gear*] I go fourth, fifth, sixth, I go all the way to thirteen. When I come back down, when I come to fifth, she no respond. Why is it she no respond? That's because something wrong with the thing because you gotta push the button. The air going do something about it."

And he insist. Okay. And then they send one supervisor at the time, mechanic supervisor, make 'em go with me you know. I take 'em out, I drive the truck, I demonstrate. And then he tell me, "Maybe you doing something wrong, eh."

I tell 'em, "Eh, you talking to somebody who *wen* teach you how to drive, you." I tell to the supervisor, "You tell me, who *wen* teach you how to operate this kind [*of*] truck? Not me? And you telling me I doing it wrong? I demonstrate to you. The pamphlet said thirteen speed. So I demonstrate to you from one go up all the way up to thirteen. But I come down, down, down. When I come to the fifth one, the thing don't respond. So what kind of excuse I going give? Cannot be me wrong."

Boy, they argue with me. After that, all the more I come fed up, eh. I couldn't take it. Because they don't accept that there was a human error on the part of the mechanic, you know, that they gotta take 'em apart and put 'em back, eh. Well, that's one of the reasons I wanted to get out from the job and retire as fast as I can already. I no like get anything to do [*with the company*] because make me mad, eh. And I no like that happen when I get into argument with somebody. They no believe me.

Even the police, the sergeant. He had to go Big Island to learn how to operate *da kine* truck, big truck, in order to become a [*driving test*] examiner. Because the early days no more police examiner. Our supervisor is the examiner. So later, had to be policeman, officer to be examiner. He himself telling me I doing it wrong. But he never think that *da kine* that he had practice on in Big Island, they had to go spend some time over there, about two weeks or three weeks Big Island. Somebody over there teach them how to operate the trucks. Just happen the truck that they *wen* learn on, different type of transmission. So he expect me to teach my trainees the way he had learn. But different kind [*of*] transmission so altogether different.

And he went with one of the Hawaiian guys, one of the truck driver trainers like myself. And he wanted to see if he could do it on *da kine* truck we have here. He no could do it. When the regular driver that he went with look at the big pamphlet he [*the policeman*] put down in between them. He [*the regular driver*] look at 'em, oh, different kind [*of*] transmission. And he [*the policeman*] couldn't demonstrate the way he was telling me supposed to be done. No way could. The [*regular driver*] guy—when they came back the next day he told me, “Eh, the guy he talk like that, but he couldn't do it because different kind [*of*] transmission. I saw his pamphlet.” And until today, the guy [*policeman*] never did apologize to me.

That individual, two time, I figure he did wrong at that time to me and he never apologize. Another time, at the police station, my youngest son was in the air force, yeah, and. . . . This happened up the Mainland, somebody stole his wallet. He taking a shower and somebody pick the. . . . The wallet was in the pocket, eh, shorts. He go with the shorts take a shower. But the wallet was sticking out I think. Somebody pick 'em so he lost his license and he wanted one, how you call it, one copy. And he told me go to the police station because get his record. I believe. That's where he took his license here on Lana`i. I went over there, the guy was on duty, this same guy.

He said, “No more.” He pull out the file. He go through the thing fast, eh. So he miss 'em, because he wasn't all out to find my son's record. Two times he tell me, “No more, Mr. Agliam. I no see your son's *da kine* [*license*].”

And the second time he tell me that, I raise my voice, “Where shall I go then? Cannot be I go Maui, because he took his license here, gotta be here. He not going go Maui go take license there.”

And when I talk loud, the lieutenant, which was this guy by the name of

Teshima, the last name Teshima, he knew that I was classmate with his uncle at Waihe`e School. So I had some kind of connection there, with the top officer here. The guy, the lieutenant, walk in he tell, "What happened Mr. Agliam?"

"Oh, your sergeant said my son's record no more here. He took driving license here, somebody had steal his wallet so naturally he lost his license, too."

Then he tell the guy, "Step aside." The lieutenant go there and slowly, finally he found 'em. "Pah." Hard, boy, he whip 'em on the counter. He look at the guy, "What do you call that?"

See the guy, shame, eh. He blush, eh. Shee, I look at the guy, the one said, "No more." He no can talk. From that time on when he talk to me, he call me, "Mr. Agliam." Before that, no such thing. He just call me "Agliam," and it didn't matter to me. Well, at least that taught him a lesson, you know, you no can just push anybody the way you think you can. But he didn't know that I had some sort of a inside connection.

JS: Well, it sounds like you had a very interesting and full life. And I want to thank you for sharing all of this with us.

END OF INTERVIEW